AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims, as provided below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope comprising a sheath provided with a distal articulation section adjacent to the distal tip of said endoscope and two or more separate optical channels that produce two or more distinct views, each of said optical channels ~~consisting of~~ comprising an objective lens, and a means of capturing ~~or~~ and/or viewing the image; ~~each channel optionally also including one or more of the following elements: a) an optical relay system; b) an ocular; and c) a coupling lens suitable to deliver the image acquired by said objective lens to an image sensor and display apparatus~~; wherein ~~each~~ the objective lens or lenses of said two or more separate optical channels, which produce the first of said distinct views, is located at a first location, which is located on said distal tip, and the objective lens or lenses of said two or more separate optical channels, which produce the second of said distinct views is located at a second location, which is located on the proximal end of said articulation section or on the sheath of said endoscope adjacent to or located proximally of said articulation section. ~~at a different position along the length of the endoscope.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An endoscope according to claim 1, in which each of the distinct multiple views ~~may be~~ is selected from the group comprising: ~~formed~~ a monocular view, produced by a single optical channel ~~to produce a monocular view,~~; a binocular view, produced by two ~~or by multiple~~ optical channels; and a ~~to produce a binocular or~~ stereoscopic view, produced by two optical channels.

3. (Currently Amended) An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the components of ~~said~~ the optical channels and ~~said~~ the display apparatus are chosen such that said

endoscope can operate in either the visible, ultraviolet, infrared, or x-ray portions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

4. (Currently Amended) An endoscope according to claim 1, in which ~~said~~ the objective lens~~, ocular, and coupling lens have either~~ has a focal length selected from the group comprising: fixed focal length, multiple focal lengths, or variable focal lengths.

5. (Currently Amended) An endoscope according to claim 1, in which each of ~~said~~ the distinct views is at an angle of between 0 and 180 degrees with respect to the mechanical axis of said endoscope.

6. (Currently Amended) An endoscope according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, in which the field of view of each of ~~each of said~~ the optical channels ~~may be of any suitable shape, including, but not limited to circular and rectangular, and~~ has an angular view of up to 180 degrees or more.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A distal tip for ~~a GERD endoscope~~ an endoscope comprising:
   (a) a socket suitable to receive ~~elements~~ either the staple-firing portion or the anvil portion of a stapling device;
   (b) at least one illumination channel; and
   (c) at least one objective lens coupled to an optical relay system.

9. (Original) A distal tip according to claim 8, further comprising a suction and/or irrigation channel.

10. (Original) A distal tip according to claim 8, wherein the socket is suitable to receive the anvil of a ~~elements of the~~ stapling device ~~comprise an anvil~~.

11. (New) An endoscope according to claim 1, further comprising a stapling device, said stapling device comprising a staple-firing portion and an anvil portion, wherein one of said portions is located at the first location and the second of said portions is located at the second location.

12. (New) An endoscope according to claim 1, wherein the means for capturing or viewing the image comprise one or more of the following elements:

(a) an optical relay system;

(b) an occular; and

(c) a coupling lens suitable to deliver the image acquired by the objective lens to an image sensor and display apparatus.

13. (New) An endoscope according to claim 12, in which the ocular and the coupling lens have a focal length selected from the group comprising: fixed focal length, multiple focal lengths, or variable focal lengths.

14. (New) An endoscope according to claim 12, in which at least two of the two or more distinct views are displayed simultaneously on the display apparatus.

15. (New) An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the field of view of the optical channels is circular.

16. (New) An endoscope according to claim 1, in which the field of view of the optical channels is rectangular.